# A NEW SPECIES OF *SWELTSA* FROM WEST VIRGINIA (PLECOPTERA: CHLOROPERLIDAE)[1]

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ABSTRACT: *Sweltsa pocahontas*, n. sp. is described from Braxton and Pocahontas County, West Virginia. This species resembles *S. urticae* (Ricker) in the structural details of the male epiproct and both species are illustrated. A holotype male and five paratype males are designated.

The Nearctic *Sweltsa* includes 21 species, of which five are eastern in distribution (Surdick 1985). Collecting by the authors has revealed an undescribed species from the Allegheny Mountain section of West Virginia.

## *Sweltsa pocahontas*, new species

Figs. 1-3.

**Male.-** Body length 8.5-9.0 mm. Length of forewing 8.0 mm. General body color straw yellow in life (yellow-white in alcohol). Pronotum with black margin and center stripe. Middorsal region of abdominal terga 1-8 each with black mark. Terga 9 with transverse ridge. Epiproct erectile in cup-like basal anchor, elongate and nearly parallel sided dorsally (Fig. 2); tip hooked, recurved anteriorly, joining basal portion at acute angle, (Figs. 1 and 3).

**Types.-** Holotype Male, WEST VIRGINIA: Pocahontas County, Monongahela National Forest, Right Fork of Tea Creek, 0.4 miles N of WV 150, between Tea Creek Mountain and Gauley Mountain, elev. 1277 m, 16 VI 1983, R.F. Kirchner and B.C. Kondratieff. Paratypes: 3 males, same data as holotype; 2 males, Braxton County, small tributary to Falls Run, at Falls Mill, US 19, 11 V 1984, R.F. Kirchner.

The holotype and one paratype will be deposited in the collection of the United States Museum of Natural History, the remaining paratypes in the Kirchner Collection and Colorado State University Insect Collection.

**Etymology:** This species is named for the county in West Virginia where the holotype was collected.

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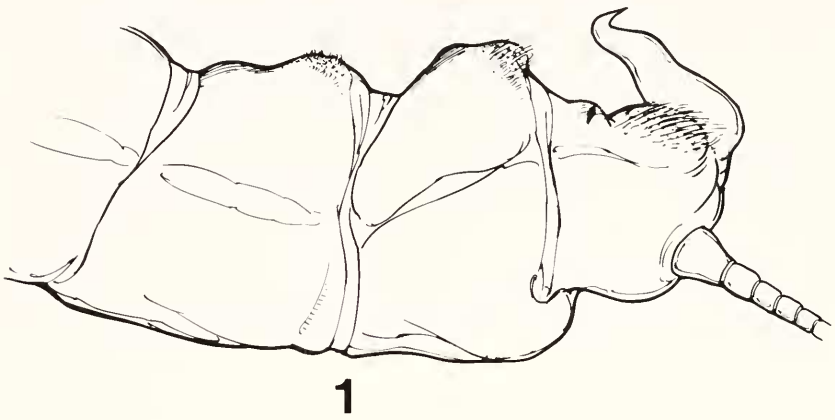

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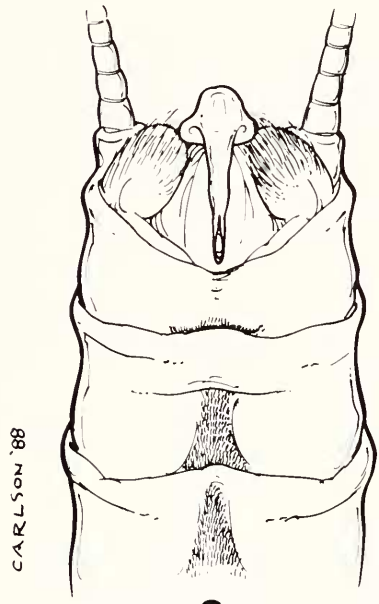


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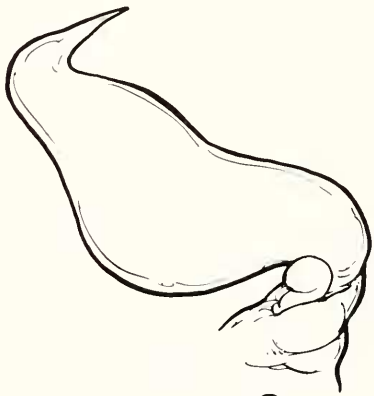

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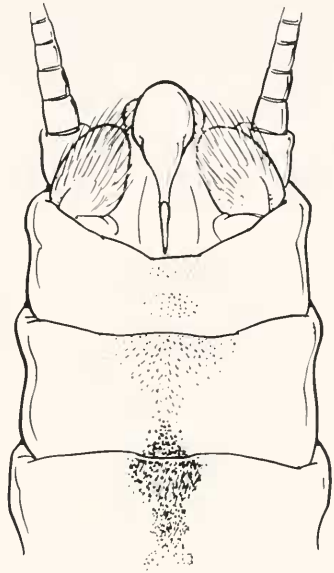
Figure 1. *Sweltsa pocahontas,* n. sp. Male terminalia, lateral. Figure 2. Male terminalia, dorsal. Figure 3. epiproct, lateral.



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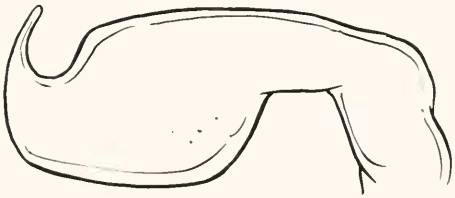

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Figure 4. *Sweltsa urticae* (Grayson Co., Virginia) Male terminalia, dorsal. Figure 5. Epiproct, lateral.

**Diagnosis.-** The shape of the male epiproct easily distinguishes this species from its eastern Nearctic relatives: *S. lateralis* (Banks), *S. mediana* (Banks), *S. naica* (Provancher), *S. onkos* (Ricker), and *S. urticae* (Ricker). In lateral view, the epiproct is most similar to *S. urticae* (Fig. 5), but lacks the expanded basal section of the epiproct. Additionally, the tip of the epiproct is elongate in *S. pocahontas* and forms an acute angle in lateral view (Fig. 3) rather than U-shape as in *S. urticae* (Fig. 5). Females and nymphs collected in association with *S. pocahontas* could not be reliably distinguished from females and nymphs of *S. lateralis.*

**Remarks:** Both streams are crenon (spring runs) habitats that become intermittent. The dominant riparian vegetation varies from cove hardwoods to northern hardwoods intermixed with red spruce.

Other species of chloroperlids associated with *Sweltsa pocahontas* included *S. lateralis, S. onkos, Alloperla usa* Ricker, and *Haploperla brevis* (Banks).

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LITERATURE CITED

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